3 0 MAY 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT   : Status of U. S. Anti-Satellite (ASAT)
                    Developments

1. By memo of 31 March, I advised you on the status of
U. S. Anti-Satellite (ASAT) System Developments. In return, you
suggested an assessment of Soviet dependence on space and an
estimate whether we could anticipate some mutual standoff. This
is to advise you on the current status of ICS and community
efforts in response.

2. The GMAIC has completed a study to identify gaps in U. S.
knowledge of Soviet Space activities. That study had been
previously requested by the IC Staff.

3. An interagency study has been initiated by the D/DCI/NIO
memo of 2 May 1975 to USIB of Soviet dependence on space systems
and the vulnerability of their national security to the loss or
degradation of these systems. The study group is chaired by OWI
with full USIB agency participation. The first meeting was held
on 21 May. In recognition of the target completion date of
15 August, the Chairman has asked for first inputs by 6 June
and first draft out for coordination by 30 June.

4. After considerable discussion with DDR&E and
Dr. Donald Steininger, the DDR&E has agreed to a companion study
of U. S. dependency led off by an in-house "action group" chaired
by the Net Technical Assessment Office. Their interim report will
be ready for presentation to a two week Defense Science Board
Summer Study Group meeting in August under Dr. Fubini. Following
the August meeting, the "action group" will respond to DSB
direction towards issuing a report in November 1975. We have been
advised already that there will be a request for a threat briefing
by the IC to the summer study group.

5. On the assumption that everything will go as planned and that sufficient coordination can be maintained by the IC Staff between the two studies, these reports should permit comparison in support of our estimate of mutual stand-off potential. The estimate itself could be initiated sometime around the end of this calendar year.

6. I am having prepared a brief note for use with PFIAB reporting on the status of our work as a follow-up to Rob Silverstein's original briefing.
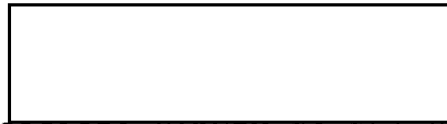
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